

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

Claim 1. (currently amended): A network system comprising a server, a client, and a device,

said server comprising:

a first storage unit, adapted to store position information indicating a geographical location in which said device is installed and a network address of said device; and

a first transmission unit, adapted to transmit the position information and the network address stored by said first storage unit to said client via a network,

said device comprising:

a second storage unit, adapted to store icon data indicating an icon for visually representing said device; and

a control unit, adapted to transmit the icon data stored by said second storage unit to said client via the network, and

said client comprising:

a first reception unit, adapted to receive the position information and the network address transmitted by said first transmission unit via the network;

a second transmission unit, adapted to transmit a request to said device based on the network address received by said first reception unit so as to acquire the icon data stored in said second storage unit from said device via said network;

a second reception unit, adapted to receive the icon data transmitted by said control unit via the network; ~~and~~

a display unit, adapted to display the geographical location in which said device is installed indicated by the position information received by said first reception unit, and to display the icon indicated by the icon data received by said second reception unit; and

a third storage unit, adapted to store map data corresponding to the position information,

wherein said display unit selects the map data from said third storage unit based on the received position information, and displays the icon in accordance with the selected map data.

Claims 2. and 3. (canceled).

Claim 4. (previously presented): The network system according to claim 1, wherein

said device further comprises a judgment unit, adapted to judge a status of said device,

said second storage unit stores a plurality of icon data each of which corresponds to the status of said device, and

said control unit selects the icon data in accordance with the judged status from the plurality of stored icon data and transmits the selected icon data to said client.

Claims 5. and 6. (canceled)

Claim 7. (currently amended): An information processor for communicating with another information processor and a device via a network, comprising:

a first reception unit, adapted to receive from the other information processor, via the network, position information indicating a geographical location in which the device is installed and a network address of the device;

a transmission unit, adapted to transmit a request to the device based on the network address received by said first reception unit so as to acquire icon data from the device, the icon data indicating an icon for visually representing the device;

a second reception unit, adapted to receive the icon data from the device via the network;

a display unit, adapted to display the geographical location in which the device is installed indicated by the position information received by said first reception unit, and to display the icon indicated by the icon data received by said second reception unit; and

a storage unit, adapted to store map data corresponding to the position information, wherein said display unit selects map data from said storage unit based on the received position information, and displays the icon in accordance with the selected map data.

Claims 8.- 20. (canceled)

Claim 21. (currently amended): A method of displaying an icon for a device on a network, comprising:

a first reception step of receiving from an information processor, via the network, position information indicating a geographical location in which the device is installed and a network address of the device;

a transmission step of transmitting a request to the device based on the received network address so as to acquire icon data from the device, the icon data indicating an icon for the device;

a second reception step of receiving the icon data from the device via the network;

a display step of displaying the geographical location in which the device is installed indicated by the position information received in said first reception step, and displaying the icon indicated by the icon data received in said second reception step; and

a selection step of selecting map data corresponding to the position information from among a plurality of map data, wherein said display step includes displaying the icon in accordance with the selected map data.

Claims 22. - 28. (canceled)

Claim 29. (currently amended): A storage medium storing a computer program executed by a computer of an information processor for implementing a method of displaying an icon for a device on a network, said computer program comprising:

code for a first reception step of receiving from an information processor, via the network, position information indicating a geographical location in which the device is installed and a network address of the device;

code for a transmission step of transmitting a request to the device based on the received network address so as to acquire icon data from the device, the icon data indicating an icon for the device;

code for a second reception step of receiving the icon data from the device via the network;

code for a display step of displaying the geographical location in which the device is installed indicated by the position information received in the first reception step, and displaying the icon indicated by the icon data received in the second reception step;

and

code for a selection step of selecting map data corresponding to the position information from among a plurality of map data, wherein said display step includes displaying the icon in accordance with the selected map data.

Claim 30. (canceled)

Claim 31. (previously presented): The network system according to claim 1, wherein said client further comprises a processor unit adapted to process the received position information to identify a device corresponding to the received position information, and wherein said second transmission unit transmits the request to the identified device.

Claim 32. (previously presented): The network system according to claim 1, wherein the position information indicates at least two geographical areas in which said device is located, a first one of the geographical areas being included within another of the geographical areas.

Claim 33. (previously presented): The network system according to claim 1, wherein said client further comprises a third transmission unit adapted to transmit a request to a device corresponding to the received position information so as to acquire a status of that device, and wherein said second reception unit receives the icon data corresponding to the status of that device.

Claim 34. (previously presented): The network system according to claim 1, wherein said client further comprises a third transmission unit adapted to transmit a request to said server so as to search for a desired device, and wherein said first reception unit receives the position information as a response to the request transmitted by said third transmission unit.

Claim 35. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, further comprising a processing step of processing the received position information to identify a device corresponding to the received position information, wherein said transmission step includes transmitting the request to the identified device.

Claim 36. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein the position information indicates at least two geographical areas in which the device is located, a first one of the geographical areas being included within another of the geographical areas.

Claim 37. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, further comprising a second transmission step of transmitting a request to a device corresponding to the received position information so as to acquire a status of that device, and wherein said second reception step includes receiving the icon data corresponding to the status of that device.

Claim 38. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, further comprising a second transmission step of transmitting a request to the information processor so as to search for a desired device, wherein said first reception step includes receiving the position information and the network address as a response to the request transmitted in said second transmission step.

Claim 39. (previously presented): The network system according to claim 1, wherein said display unit displays the location of said device defined by the position information received by said first reception unit in characters.

Claim 40. (previously presented): The information processor according to claim 7, wherein said display unit displays the location of said device defined by the position information received by said first reception unit in characters.

Claim 41. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein said display step includes displaying the location of the device defined by the position information received in said first reception step in characters.

Claims 42. and 43. (canceled).

Claim 44. (previously presented): A network system according to claim 1, wherein the position information defining the geographical location of said device comprises information that defines the geographical location of said device in a plurality of hierarchical layers.

Claim 45. (previously presented): A network system according to claim 1, wherein the position information defining the geographical location of said device comprises information selected from the group consisting of (a) information defining which of plural companies' facility said device is in, (b) information defining which of plural cities said device is in, (c) information defining which of plural building said device is in, (d) information defining which of plural floors of a building said device is on, and (e) information defining which of plural locations on a floor said device is in.

Claim 46. (previously presented): An information processor according to claim 7, wherein the position information defining the geographical location of said device comprises information selected from the group consisting of (a) information defining which of plural companies' facility said device is in, (b) information defining which of plural cities said device is in, (c) information defining which of plural building said device is in, (d) information defining which of plural floors of a building said device is on, and (e) information defining which of plural locations on a floor said device is in.

Claim 47. (canceled)

Claim 48. (previously presented): A method according to claim 21, wherein the position information defining the geographical location of the device comprises information selected from the group consisting of (a) information defining which of plural companies' facility the device is in, (b) information defining which of plural cities the device is in, (c) information defining which of plural building the device is in, (d) information defining which of plural floors of a building the device is on, and (e) information defining which of plural locations on a floor the device is in.

Claim 49. (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim [[21]] 29, wherein the position information defining the geographical location of the device comprises information selected from the group consisting of (a) information defining which of plural companies' facility the device is in, (b) information defining which of plural cities the device is in, (c) information defining which of plural building the device is

in, (d) information defining which of plural floors of a building the device is on, and (e) information defining which of plural locations on a floor the device is in.